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ABSTRACT

This book describes transitions at Catholic colleges and universities by which governance was transferred from the founding religious communities to boards of mostly lay trustees. The book uses seven case studies from: (1) the College of New Rochelle (New York), (2) Saint Louis University (Missouri), (3) the University of Notre Dame (Indiana), (4) Mundelein College (Illinois), (5) the University of Portland (Oregon), (6) Saint Michael's College (Vermont), and (7) Fordham University (New York). The case studies examine, for each institution, the process of laicization, the reasons for the decision to change, and the ways in which the task was carried out. A separate chapter of the book is devoted to the legal issues, both civil and canonical, that relate to such transfers. While the shift in control occurred in different ways on different campuses, the book notes several common threads, including a desire to improve educational excellence, to change the image of the institution, to secure lay participation for fund-raising efforts, and to improve decision making processes and deal more realistically with the secular world and lay faculty and students. (Contains extensive reference notes.) (CH)

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